

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0442

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, XA, CD

SUBJ: REGIONAL ARMS RESTRAINT STUDY

REF: STATE 20621

1. REPLY DELAYED IN HOPE THAT EMB MIGHT OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION GOC INTENTIONS REGARDING SUPPLY ARMS, PARTICULARLY INFORMATION ON RECENT VISIT SENIOR OFFICIALS MOSCOW BELIEVED BE FOR PURPOSE OBTAINING MILITARY MATERIAL. INFORMATION ON RESULTS OF TRIP SCANTY, HOWEVER, SO THAT RESPONSES BELOW TO REFTEL QUESTIONS MIGHT WELL NEED BE ALTERED NEXT FEW DAYS SHOULD MORE INFORMATION BECOME AVAILABLE.

2. GOC DESIRE OBTAIN MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING EXPRESSED TO USG AND, WE BELIEVE, MOST OTHER POTENTIAL SUPPLIERS IN WEEKS BEFORE AND AFTER WITHDRAWAL FRENCH FORCES. FRANCE STILL CONSIDERED SOURCE FOR MILITARY MATERIEL, AND PROBABLY MOST LIKELY ONE, BUT GOC WOULD OBVIOUSLY LIKE EXPAND OPTIONS BY DECREASING DEPENDENCE ON FRENCH. QUALITY ARMS IN WHICH GOC INTERESTED SUCH AS RECONNAISSANCE AND TRANSPORT AIRCRAFT, APCs, HELICOPTERS, ETC. DISCUSSED WITH USG AND GOF (AND PRESUMABLY WITH USSR) ARE NOT HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED BY MODERN STANDARDS BUT WOULD REPRESENT QUANTUM JUMP FOR CHAD. THEY WOULD REQUIRE EXTENSIVE TRAINING FOR GOC MILITARY AND, IN ALL PROBABILITY FOREIGN

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TECHNICIANS FOR CONSIDERABLE PERIOD OF TIME.

3. GOC'S IMMEDIATE REQUIREMENT IS FOR MATERIEL TO CARRY ON OPERATIONS AGAINST REBELS AND BANDITS IN NORTH. IN FIRST INSTANCE IT MUST RETAIN RESUPPLY CAPABILITY AND IN SECOND MINOR OFFENSIVE CAPABILITY AS DETERRENT. APPEARS UNLIKELY THAT LARGE-SCALE OFFENSIVE ACTION COULD BE UNDERTAKEN FOR SOME TIME. WHILE AT SOME FUTURE DATE GOC MAY BE INTERESTED IN SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT, PARTICULARLY IF FREE OR IF BUDGETARY RESTRAINTS WERE REMOVED (E.G., DISCOVERY SIZABLE COMMERCIAL PETROLEUM), FOR IMMEDIATE FUTURE NEED IS FOR LESS COMPLICATED WEAPONS.

4. SHOULD REBEL THREAT IN NORTH BE OVERCOME, GOC ATTENTION WOULD BECOME MORE SHARPLY FOCUSED ON PRESENCE LIBYAN FORCES NORTHERN CHAD. DISPARATE CAPABILITIES WHICH EXPECTED TO ENDURE WILL MAKE GOC VERY HESITANT ABOUT ENTERING SITUATION WHICH MAY LEAD TO MILITARY CONFRONTATION, BUT CERTAINLY GOC MUST KEEP LIBYAN MILITARY THREAT IN MIND.

5. WE SEE LITTLE POSSIBILITY USG COULD FORMULATE OR PROMOTE AREA POLICY WHICH WOULD RESOLVE CHAD'S INTERNAL PROBLEMS AND THUS DECREASE GOC DESIRE INCREASED ARMAMENTS. FROM BILATERAL STANDPOINT, BY REFUSING GRANT OR CONCESSIONARY MILITARY ASSISTANCE, USG HAS ALREADY RESTRAINED GOC EFFORTS. WHILE GOC APPRECIATIVE OF USG ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, LATTER IS LONG TERM AND WOULD BE UNLIKELY LEVER CHANGE BALANCE OF GOC'S PRESENT PRIORITIES.

6. SOME TYPE PF POLITICAL OR SECURITY AGREEMENT MIGHT DAMPEN GOC'S DESIRE FOR MILITARY MATERIEL TO DEFEND ITS NORTHERN BORDER, BUT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL EXPENSE SUCH EFFORTS UNLIKELY TO APPEAL TO ANY SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL GUARANTOR.

7. IN SUM, MILITARY ABILITY TO KEEP LONG STANDING REBELLION AT LEAST IN CHECK WILL OVERRIDE ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS FOR GOC IN IMMEDIATE FUTURE. FROM VIEWPOINT USG WE HAVE CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN STABILITY THIS OR SIMILAR GOVERNMENT AND AGAINST ANARCHY OR TAKEOVER BY AVOWEDLY MAOIST/MARXIST NORTHERNERS LED BY HISSENE HABRE (LATTER ADMITTEDLY NOT AT ALL LIKELY). THUS IT APPEARS TO US THAT IT IN INTEREST USG HAVE GOC CONTINUE BE SUPPLIED BY FRANCE IN ARMAMENTS FILED AS GOF ONLY LIKELY CANDIDATE COMBINE WILLINGNESS SUPPLY MILITARY MATERIEL, SUFFICIENT INTEREST
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IN CHAD TO MAKE IT WORTHWHILE, AND WESTERN ORIENTATION.DWYER

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